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ated Press News.

REPRIEVE AND A MUTTERING.

The executioner at Columbia, S. C.,

stood yesterday in readiness to pull the

string which was to send two human

forms dangling through the gallows trap

and speed two human souls out into the

unknown. A man and a woman were

there, duly convicted of murder and con-

demned to die. The black cape had been

drawn. The bitter cup of death was at

their very lips.

But the draught was not to be taken.

The cup was dashed away. There came

a messenger from the Governor with a re-

rieve for the condemned. The woman,

in hysterics, and the man, his breast heav-

ing with restrained emotion, were led

back to their cells. Up to the time of the

reprieve's arrival both had been stoical

and had only repeated, in answer to ques-

tions put to them, their protestations of

innocence.

It was a fearful ordeal they had gone

through when they returned to their

cells. In all but the very act of dying

they had passed through an awful form

of death. And as they were taken away

from the scaffold the crowd which had

assembled to see the execution gave

vent to loud murmurings of dissa-

tisfaction. Because they believed the

prisoners guilty, and the postponement

of the hanging a mistake? No; because

they had been disappointed of the spec-

tacle they came forth to see. There had

been such doubt of the guilt of the ac-

cused that one jury had disagreed and a

Governor had felt impelled to interfere.

Yet this brutal crowd mocked and mut-

tered, that it saw no hanging. It was

not a creditable exhibition for beings bear-

ing human forms and minds.

A DETECTIVE'S TAMED LIGHTNING.

"Sharp as lightning" is an old Yankee

phrase, and an expressive one, applied to

the characterization of a person of some

unusual degree of astuteness. The per-

son might be a successful detective, and

against such keenness as that implied

in the phrase almost any criminal might

find himself facing great odds.

But when, in addition to being himself

sharp as untamed electricity, the detec-

tive brings untamed lightning to his aid

in its tamed form, the offender whom he

seeks, particularly if he is one inept,

is emphatically out of the chase.

One safe-robbler is in a position to

appreciate this fact. He operated

for the last time in this town

yesterday. When he opened the safe he

closed not only an electric circuit, but,

for a long time, at least, his own career.

For closing the circuit rang a bell in

another apartment, where the cunning de-

tective who had arranged the wire lay in

wait.

Philfering from the safe had been tak-

ing place regularly, and might be even

yet constituting an unsolved puzzle, but

for the scientific officer and his electric

wire.

AN OUTRAGEOUS ACT OF REPITE.

Sometimes the aggravation is so great,

in the face of the misdoing of some man,

that his fellow-men are moved to wish

with strong desire, none intensity for a new

and awful form of penalty to be visited

upon the offender. It really seems for

the times to the outraged mind of the con-

templator that there is no existing pun-

ishment which fits the crime.

Almost invariably this feeling is aroused

by some low, contemptible act, which is

so utterly beyond the bounds of patient

endurance that it seems for the moment a

greater piece of criminality than it really

is. Of this sort is the deed of the

man who yesterday, in Brooklyn's

Twenty-sixth Ward, cut the ropes

which held the swinging scaffold on

which two house-painters were at

work. It was an act prompted by the

pettiest spite and of which only the

smallest nature could be capable. The

result must easily have been death or

permanent injury to both workmen.

That they escaped such consequences

does not lessen the degree of the offense.

Justice HOGAN went on record again

yesterday concerning the vice in Capt.

BROGAN's precinct. He said: "I know

that the officers of that precinct know the

character of these houses, and are aware

that women live there for immoral pur-

poses. This place shall not remain any

longer if I can help it, or any other place

like it. They shall be broken up. I want

the assistance of the police to do it, and

if I can't get it I will see what I can do

all by myself." If he asks their help the

police cannot refuse it.

THE WORLD'S suggestion that the

Democratic nomination for Governor be

tendered to Mr. CLEVELAND has indeed

set the politicians to thinking and talk-

ing. It is very worthy of remark, too, to

find that it is not alone the Democratic

politicians who are put to thinking very

seriously about it.

Hay's Government is much like child's

play. The entire Cabinet has resigned

because the Deputies of the National

Chamber refuses to endorse its action

granting the construction of a telegraph

line.

A man insulted a girl on the street and

has been sent to the Island for it. If

more examples of this kind were made

New York's streets would be safer for its

wives and mothers.

So BLAINE has talked about Russia as

well as China. If the nations he has not

talked about will arise and be counted,

perhaps a foreign mission can be found

for him yet.

What's this? A United States Admiral

will resign if he is ordered somewhere

else than where he expected? Then it

isn't more ships, alone, that we need for

our navy.

The Harlem boy who was frightened

almost to death by his friends telling

him he had rabies is out of danger.

There is too much hydrophobia scare,

anyway.

That an insane man should be permitted

to kill himself by jumping from a window,

as happened at Mount Sinai yesterday,

calls for investigation.

A merchant has begun a \$25,000 damage

suit against a merchant in agency for send-

ing out a false report about him. Its out-

come will be important.

Another illusion destroyed. The early

cucumber, which we fondly believed

came from Bermuda, is grown in cold

New England.

Those dirty east-side streets are to be

flushed by moonlight, it seems. Let us

all hope the experiment won't end in

moonshine.

The bathing-house employee who col-

lected tolls from boys has been dismissed

from the city's service. Good.

Ex-Senator INGRAM has cancelled his

European trip. He may write conten-

poraneous history instead.

The stench caused by the ditching

of Third avenue call for the interference

of the Health Board.

The Croton Reservoir should be better

patrolled. A man committed suicide in

it yesterday.

The Mexican volcano is nothing to that

over which Mr. BEATTIE is peacefully re-

sponding.

Emperor WILLIAM is rather alive in

spite of reports to the contrary.

Brazil's little debt is \$586,695,805. It's

a great thing to be trusted.

SOME PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Is Blair really going to Russia?

What is the crookedness in the Navy-Yard

py cheeks?

Will Johns Hopkins contest his adopted

father's will?

When will East Twenty-seventh street be

cleansed again?

What have the police to say about Justice

Deagan's relations?

What has become of the \$4,000,000 that

Nottingham has raised for?

How did it happen that insane patient

was allowed to kill himself at Mt. Sinai?

Why should he be a business failure

this week against 148 in the corresponding

week last year?

THE CLEANER.

Ex-Judge Fullerton is very fond of country

life. He has a large farm at Newburg, which

he has stocked with thoroughbred horses and

cattle. The Judge spends most of his time

there, and comes into and out of the city

every morning and afternoon. He conducted

a great loss recently to the death of his son,

a talented young composer, who died in Paris.

During a walk of four blocks yesterday I

counted exactly thirteen cross-eyed men.

Such a combination of "hoods," I fancy,

might drive Capt. Anson to a suicide's grave.

Coming down on a Third avenue Elevated

train from Harlem today I saw a game of

craps in progress in one of the cars. It was

played by newsmen, and they chose the end

of the last car for their game. The brakeman

looked on with indifference.

Politeness, Tim, of the Nineteenth Precinct,

is also a Bibliophile and has an ex-

tensive and well-selected library. He is

another of the cranks of the force to whom

weighty questions are referred. Sent. Alter-

ation and he often met and exchange views on

topics dear to the hearts of both.

I notice there is much disappointment

among the eligible candidates for the posi-

tions of police matrons over the sudden de-

parture for Europe of President McLean,

of the Police Board. When the thirty-two eligi-

ble names were sent to the Commissioner, it

was generally believed that the appointments

to the twenty vacancies would speedily fol-

low, but that the anxiety of the candidates

may now endure for weeks, perhaps months,

for appointments on the force can be made

only by a complete Board.

I am told that the officer whose duty it is

to inspect meat and poultry at Washington Mar-

ket is not as vigilant as he should be, and that

some of the butchers sell meat and poultry

which have been long in stock that they should

be condemned. Eternal vigilance is the

price of that officer's place.

Street-car conductors in Brooklyn are an-

nounced by small boys who persistently

insult them. The great risk of life and

limb which these boys run is not in any way

longer if I can help it, or any other place

like it. They shall be broken up. I want

the assistance of the police to do it, and

if I can't get it I will see what I can do

all